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## BOOK REVIEWS

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AMERICA'S CASE AGAINST GERMANY, by Lindsay Rogers, PhD., LL. B., Adjunct Professor of Political Science in the University of Virginia. (New York: E. P. Dutton & Company, 1917, pp. 264).

This interesting and timely volume presents very fully and succinctly the case of the United States against Germany at the bar of civilization. That the author entertains no doubt whatever of the justice of our cause is evidenced by the opening words of his introductory chapter: "No war," says he, "in which the United States has ever engaged has had greater justification than the one recognized on April 6th, 1917." And the concluding words of his final chapter are equally condemnatory of the arch-criminal: "Perhaps Woodrow Wilson waited wisely until the issue had been made translucently clear—until the liberation of Russia removed the only anomaly and made the battle one of free nations against a would-be assassin of humanity, democracy, and the future peace of the world."

The author depicts clearly for us in his opening chapters the preliminary skirmishes between America and the belligerent countries in the attempt to confine the limits of the war as closely as possible and to protect the rights of neutrals,—*inter alia*, the suggestion of the United States that the belligerents observe the Declaration of London and her protests against the war zone decrees and the submarine blockade proposed by the Teutonic Powers.

These powers have often insidiously attacked the Entente Powers, particularly Great Britain, because of the failure to follow the rules of the Declaration of London, which permitted the stopping of absolute, but not conditional, contraband (in which latter class would be included food-stuffs, sorely needed by Germany). But, as the author points out, the British House of Lords had rejected the Declaration, which thus never became binding on Great Britain, so that she was clearly within her rights in refusing to be bound by the new rules. In exercising her belligerent right of search and seizure of contraband, Great Britain was compelled by the circumstances to extend the rule of "continuous voyage" beyond the limits previously set in the American Civil War. Against this the United States and other neutrals protested more or less vigorously, but Germany's indignation at Great Britain's cruel treatment of the poor neutrals surpassed all bounds, and she gave vent to her holy wrath by declaring the war zones and submarine blockade. If the neutrals' situation was uncomfortable under the British rulings, it had now become well nigh intolerable, for between the attitudes of Great Britain and Germany there was in essence the difference between seizures of goods of doubtful legality and clearly illegal murderous assaults upon persons accompanied by the destruction of shipping and cargoes.

We are easily led by our author's graphic accounts and clear explanations of these great events to see how the black shadow of war began

to hover even more closely over our country, and as he describes in subsequent chapters the struggles our government made to prevent us from becoming enmeshed in the toils, we wonder at the patience and fortitude of our great President during that trying period.

Through the "Lusitania" crisis and the months that followed during which we were attempting to extract from an unwilling Germany an acknowledgment of her wrong-doing and a promise of atonement, through the Sussex episode and her final pledge of amendment, he takes us, citing step by step the documents in evidence, the official correspondence of the two countries, until finally he brings us to the parting of the ways, Germany's decree of February, 1917, of ruthless submarine warfare, followed by our assumption of armed neutrality and at last on April 6, 1917 by our recognition of the existence of a state of war.

The book as a whole constitutes an admirable résumé of the events and discussions that have led to our participation in the war, and in so accurate and concise a form as to make it a welcome addition to the library of any person interested in the great events it deals with.

RALEIGH C. MINOR.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, by J. E. Rhodes, 2nd. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917, pp. 300).

Statutes imposing liability without fault upon employers in certain occupations for injuries to their employees are, in the United States, a development of the last decade, and it was not until March 6, 1917 that the federal Supreme Court determined that workmen's compensation laws were not in conflict with the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Mr. Rhodes' book is the first which attempts "to give a brief history of the Workmen's Compensation movement in this country, and an outline of the principles on which the system is based" within a single compass, and it will thus, for the time being at least, have some value. Previous studies like Bradbury's are either too bulky and based too much on cases, or, from the economic standpoint, are too scattered.

Mr. Rhodes' book, however, need not deter intending authors since it fails to furnish any adequate economic or ethical rationale for vicarious liability; the chapter on constitutionality is very cursory and misses the fundamental point that the legislation, in order to be valid, must be justified as an exercise of the police power of the state, and there is but slight reference to the host of interesting and intricate points arising in English cases, not without great importance in the interpretation and administration of American statutes by courts and industrial commissions.

The scope of Mr. Rhodes' book can be shown by the chapter headings: "Introductory Survey;" "Industrial Accidents and Accident Insurance;" "European Background;" "The Agitation in the United States;" "Early Attempts in the United States;" "The Constitutionality of Compensation Legislation;" "Compensation Legislation in the United States;" "The Insurance of the Compensation Obligation;" "The Ad-